

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 CU-04

A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 SCCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00

/102 W

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R 120925Z AUG 76

FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2314

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS DURBAN 0387

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, SHUM, SF

SUBJ: UNIVERSITY OF DURBAN-WESTVILLE STUDENTS BOYCOTTING
CLASSES

1. STUDENTS AT THE (INDIAN) UNIVERSITY OF DURBAN-WESTVILLE HAVE BEGUN WEEK-LONG BOYCOTT OF CLASSES TO EXPRESS "SOLIDARITY WITH THE STUDENTS OF SOWETO" IN THEIR FIGHT AGAINST THE "FORCED USE OF AFRIKAANS." BOYCOTT WAS PRECEDED BY A MEETING OF APPROXIMATELY 1500 STUDENTS AT WHICH STUDENT LEADERS EXPLAINED THAT THEY WANTED TO EXPRESS THEIR "TOTAL REPUGNANCE AT THE BRUTAL HANDLING OF A PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION BY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS" IN SOWETO. TWO UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS ATTEMPTED TO ADDRESS THE MEETING BUT WERE PELTED WITH EGGS, BOTTLES AND SOFT DRINK CANS. UNIVERSITY SPOKESMAN CLAIMS PROTESTERS HAVE FORCIBLY PREVENTED SOME STUDENTS FROM ATTENDING CLASSES AND CAUSED MISCELLANEOUS DAMAGE TO UNIVERSITY PROPERTY. STUDENT LEADERS HAVE DENIED BOTH ALLEGATIONS, BUT POST IS INFORMED BY LECTURER AT UNIVERSITY THAT STUDENTS WISHING TO ATTEND CLASSES HAD BEEN INTIMIDATED AND, DURING FIRST TWO DAYS OF BOYCOTT, SOME PROTESTERS ENTERED CLASSROOMS AND "URGED" UNCLASSIFIED

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STUDENTS TO LEAVE.

2. UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES HAVE UNOFFICIALLY CANCELLED CLASSES FOR DURATION OF BOYCOTT; ACADEMIC STAFF IS IN ATTENDANCE BUT NOT ATTEMPTING TO LECTURE. UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION IS ATTEMPTING TO PLAY DOWN PROTEST AND HAS LIMITED POLICE PRESENCE ON CAMPUS. POLICE, HOWEVER, HAVE REACTED BY CONDUCTING EARLY MORNING SERIES OF ARRESTS OF STUDENT LEADERS AUGUST 12. NAMES OF INDIVIDUALS ARRESTED HAVE YET TO BE ANNOUNCED BUT REPORTEDLY INCLUDE SON OF RECENTLY BANNED INDIAN LEADER FATIMA MEER.
FARBER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, BOYCOTTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DURBAN00387
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760310-0640
From: DURBAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760861/aaaacbgx.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 APR 2004 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <13 DEC 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNIVERSITY OF DURBAN-WESTVILLE STUDENTS BOYCOTTING CLASSES
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, SF, UNIV OF DURBAN WESTVILLE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006